



COCOM
CONGOLESE COMMUNITY OF NORTH CAROLINA / RALEIGH
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2006-2007 Annual Report

COCOM

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I. The year in review

a. Meeting

The executive board held its monthly meeting on a regular basis according to the bylaw. The minutes of all meetings are well kept and available to members who desire to read it. On top of regular meetings the board met in special occasion to discuss issue such as immigration and finance. Two regular general meetings were held from July 2006 to July 2007. Both meetings analyzed questions pertaining to the administration of the organization, the 2007 action plan and budget approval, and the revision of the statute.

The average participation of members at the general assembly is 65.

b. Agenda Application

1. Harmonization of COCOM's legal name

The confusion around the legal name of the organization was solved as decided by the general assembly. The board chairman went to see Secretary of State to fix the problem. Currently, we have only one organization being recognized by the State of North Carolina, and the legal name is: Congolese Community North Carolina/Raleigh. This information can be found at the Secretary of State official website.

2. Statute and Bylaw revision

The executive board implemented a commission in charge of reviewing the organization's statute and bylaw. The following persons were all members of the named-commission: Pastor Jean Pierre Kamuabo, Pastor Jean Pierre Mukendi, Me Georges Polo Polo, Mr. Guy Kasongo. After 2 months of work, the commission submitted the final document to the general assembly, and the final version was approved after few

modifications. The executive board reproduced at least 500 copies of the new statute of COCOM, and those documents were distributed to members. The French and English version of the document is uploaded to the official website of COCOM. Among the major change we noticed the 3 years term of the executive board and the Administration council. The executive board must organize an election that will nominate members of the Administration Council. We mention that COCOM's bylaw is yet to be modified according to the statute.

3. Administrative resources

The organization acquired an office shared with Southern Soudan Fellowship. COCOM is in partnership with SSF and benefits from such partnership by splitting the rent cost. The rent monthly rate is \$150. This is a modest price comparing to the advantage of using not only the office but also the conference room, 3 networked computers and a telephone line.

The official website of the organization was launched, and the executive committee must update and finish its constructions. Consistent updates are needed to make it more interactive and beneficial to the community. This is one of the areas needing a lot of improvement that the organization must implement a technical commission to analyze the problem and find potential solutions.

4. Grant Application

COCOM received \$1000 grant from Time Warner Cable because of the President contribution to the community. The grant was matched with time spent in volunteering for the organization. The copy of the application is attached to this report. The President of COCOM, Mr. Kidibu Yabi Miki, is a full time employee of Time Warner Cable.

5. June 30 Conference

On June 30th, 2007, (RDC independence day) COCOM projected an important documentary about DRC to instill the passion of evaluating the

ongoing crisis. Businesses and non-profit organizations led by Congolese immigrant participated in a workshop to market their products and services. The chairman emphasized the concept of encouraging, empowering and supporting all Congolese businesses and organizations established in the Triangle. During the conference, the audience has the opportunity to listen to the testimonies of those who were arrested by the ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) and released from prison. The community was asked to support through COCOM those still in prisons. A succulent meal composed of African and American dishes was served during the party, and the audience enjoyed the African music and dance. A soccer game between youth team and adult team took place the same day. The event was recorded, and the DVD is available for those members who would like to order. We invited American churches and organizations leaders as well as African community leaders.

6. Partnership

The organization works in partnership with all Congolese Community in North America. COCOM is fostering the implementation of Congolese Community USA. The chairman has participated in numbers of meeting regrouping the chairman of the following organization: Congolese Community Dallas, Congolese Community South California, Congolese Community of Atlanta, and Congolese Community of Charlotte. The chairman and his wife responded to the invitation of Charlotte and Dallas Congolese Community in December 2007. In the triangle, COCOM is working with the African Diaspora Coalition and Southern Sudan fellowship. African Advocacy for Aid (AAA) is another partner of our organization.

c. Immigration

The immigration has been a continuous challenge for the organization in regard to the case of those released from prison and those who are still in prison. COCOM provided a modest financial support to the group who was arrested first. However, we have continuously provided an administrative support such as affidavit witnessing our arrested-fellows'

behavior in the Community. We have also recommended lawyers family relative could consult to defend the case of those having an immigration problem.

d. Funeral

The community has suffered cases of death as never before in a short period of 4 months. We lost 5 beloved-members of our community living in the triangle. The organization brought a moral, spiritual and financial support to all family who experienced the death of one of their relatives. We provided such support regardless the level of participation or involvement of the person in the organization's activities. COCOM managed crisis during the funeral in one of the families. The Community has learned a lot of lesson from the crisis that some conferences discussing specific issues such as will, life insurance, cross-culture integration of our custom, education in the laws of the country must be held during the year 2008. The greatest asset of this painful moment was seeing all members of our community coming together supporting morally, spiritually, and financially these 5 families. A detailed-financial report is found in the Appendix to this document. Each family received from the community a check of \$3,500. The total amount spent in supporting all five families was \$17,500.

II. SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threat)

Strength

The community has demonstrated during tumultuous and painful moment commitment and passion for unity. Consequently, members do not hesitate to financially contribute every time the Executive Committee requests for their supports. The leadership and the authority of COCOM continue to be well implemented. COCOM's members highly educated continue to seek the development of our community.

Weakness

We continue to experience a weak participation to the General meeting, and the annual members' financial contribution strategy is inefficient. The Website is not well optimized and customized to respond to the basic needs of our community. We need to make it an educational and an informational tool for members. The administration must ensure that meeting reports are published to members regularly and in a timely fashion.

Opportunities

We can improve the education of our children by providing tutoring, mentoring and afterschool programs helping working parents who cannot assist their children in homework (mathematics, English reading and writing.) We can continue to provide programs helping our children in keeping and learning the native languages (French, Lingala, Kikongo, Shuahili, Tshiluba.) The community can foster programs encouraging entrepreneurship mindset, business and organizations promotion and lobbying establishment. Conferences and forums must be used as an educational and an advocacy tool for issues pertaining to DRC. Conferences must cover a broad range of issues starting with life insurance and health insurance themes, challenges faced by immigrants etc... COCOM is well positioned to encourage the creation of COCOM USA as well as the African Diaspora Coalition. We have also the opportunity to increase the organization, businesses and churches' visibility by effectively using a professional website for each group.

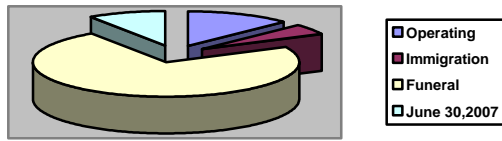
Threat

French, Shuahili, Lingala, Kikongo and Tshiluba must continue to be taught to our children's new generation while they have maximized their efforts in learning English. Study has shown it is better to learn more than one language. The preservation of African positive culture must be emphasized during the process of acculturation. Individualism,

materialism and division must leave the place to the principle of unity and common interest. A change of mentality is then needed.

IV. Rapport Financier

Expense Allocation per focus area



Operating	Immigration	Funeral	June 30,2007
\$3,016.97	\$1,201.00	\$17,300.00	\$2,230.00

CONGOLESE COMMUNITY/NORTH CAROLINA-RALEIGH FINANCIAL REPORT FROM 2006-2007			
	BUDGET06	ACTUAL	VARIANC
BALANCE FORWARD		\$0.00	
INCOME			
MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTION	\$3,000.00		
July&September General Assembly		\$556.00	
Loan(Treasurer, Chairman)		\$825.00	
Grant(Time Warner Cable)		1,000.00	
October Meeting(Immigration)	0.00	1,050.00	
Funeral	0.00	20,300.00	
Other contributions	750.00	410.90	
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,750.00	\$24,141.90	#####
EXPENSES			
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Accounting documentation		\$73.22	
Damage repair (Ramandan inn)		100.00	
Rental for General Assembly		539.75	
Married couple&Students gifts		60.00	
Office Rental&Utilities&Printing		1650.00	
June 30,2007(Conference)		2230.00	
Funeral contribution		17500.00	
Website set up(Zion3&Register.com)		440.00	
Other expenses		154.00	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$3,552.00	\$22,746.97	#####
IMMIGRATION EXPENSES			
Case 1	0.00	\$250.00	
Case2	0.00	250.00	
Case3	0.00	250.00	
Case4	0.00	250.00	
Case5	0.00	75.00	
Case6	0.00	126.00	
TOTAL IMMIGRATION EXPENSES	0.00	\$1,201.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,552.00	\$23,947.97	#####
Operating gain/loss		\$193.93	

